Stock reduction in FCI godowns

1734. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various measures taken so far as on date by his Ministry towards fast stock reduction in FCI godowns, controlled and managed by FCI and private traders;

(b) the various measures taken so far towards the fast disposal of old and relaxed inferiority quality stocks of FCI godowns; and

(c) the details of quantity of rice and wheat disposed under that category during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The steps taken by the Government to reduce the surplus stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool are:

(i) Increase in entitlement of foodgrains upto 35 Kg. per family per month for the consumers of various categories under the Targeted Public Distribution System at highly subsidized rates.

(ii) Introduction of new foodgrain based Welfare Schemes.

(iii) Issue of foodgrains for the various foodgrain based welfare schemes at Issue Price applicable for the consumers below poverty line (BPL).

(iv) Continuation of sale of wheat in market for domestic consumption under the Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) without quantitative restrictions.

(v) Continuation of sale of wheat and rice for export till the stocks remain in excess of the prescribed norms for the buffer stocks.

(vi) entering into counter-trade and/or commodity assistance in form of foodgrains to deserving countries.

(vii) Expeditious disposal of old stocks and the stocks of foodgrains procured under the relaxed specification (URS) in open market through open sale at fixed prices and tenders.

(b) Instructions have been issued to the FCI for the speedy liquidation of all stocks three or more years old and stocks procured under relaxed specification (URS).

(c) The details of the stocks of (i) damaged category wheat and rice which were not fit for human consumption, (ii) 'D' category rice which were not fit for human consumption without upgrading and (iii) rice procured under the relaxed specifications which were not acceptable under the Public Distribution and other Welfare Schemes, disposed of during the last three years are as under:

(Qty. in lakh MT)

Items	00-01	01-02	02-03	Total
Damaged wheat	0.32	0.33	0.45	1.10
Damaged rice and paddy	1.30	0.84	1.56	3.70
'D' Category rice	0.09	0.63	0.21	0.93
URS rice	2.68	4.02	0.59	7.29
TOTAL	4.39	5.82	2.81	13.02

Besides, the entire stock of about 164.6 lakh MT of luster lost wheat procured under the relaxed specification during the Rabi Marketing Season 2001-02 has almost been disposed of through lifting under the Public Distribution System and the other welfare schemes and sale in market for domestic consumption as well as export.

Death due to starvation

1735. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some people died or committed suicide in certain States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa due to starvation;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether Government have identified through District Administration, the families and persons who are not in a position to earn livelihood for their subsistence;